

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 inferring means for inferring a color space of image data that is to be processed; and
 processing means for performing a prescribed processing to the image data on the basis of information indicating the color space inferred by the inferring means.
2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inferring means infers the color space of the image data by: (1) performing image recognition processing to the image data, the image recognition processing including recognizing a prescribed image portion of the image data as a predefined object; and (2) referring to color information that is set in advance as information representing a color of the predefined object recognized by the image recognition processing.
3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inferring means infers the color space of the image data by using appended data that is input together with the image data, the appended data including at least one of information indicating a format of the image data, information including at least one of a date and time of generation of the image data, a date and time of last updating of the image data, and information indicating an editing history of the image data.
4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for performing, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.
5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising means for performing, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.
6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising means for performing, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.
7. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the inferring means: (1) performs conversion processing into another color space on data generated on the basis of the image data while assuming that the color space of the image data is a color space indicated by each of plural preset items of color space candidate information, to thereby obtain plural conversion processing results corresponding to the respective items of color space candidate information; (2) presents the plural conversion processing results to a user; (3) receives a manipulation of the user of selecting one of the plural conversion processing

results; and (4) employs, as an inference result of the color space of the image data, a color space indicated by color space candidate information that corresponds to the conversion processing result selected by the manipulation of the user.

8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the data generated on the basis of the image data is one of the image data and reduced data of the image data.

9. The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the color information that is set in advance includes at least one or more of: information indicating a saturation range, information indicating a hue range, and information indicating a target color.

10. An image processing apparatus comprising:
a controller that: (1) infers a color space of image data that is to be processed; and (2) performs a prescribed processing to the image data on the basis of information indicating the color space that was inferred.

11. The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the controller infers the color space of the image data by: (1) performing image recognition processing to the image data, the image recognition processing including recognizing a prescribed image portion of the image data as a predefined object; and (2) referring to color information that is set in advance as information representing a color of the predefined object recognized by the image recognition processing.

12. The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the controller infers the color space of the image data by using appended data that is input together with the image data, the appended data including at least one of information indicating a format of the image data, information including at least one of a date and time of generation of the image data, a date and time of last updating of the image data, and information indicating an editing history of the image data.

13. The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the controller also performs, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.

14. The image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the controller also performs, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.

15. The image processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the controller also performs, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.

16. The image processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the controller:
 (1) performs conversion processing into another color space on data generated on the basis of the image data while assuming that the color space of the image data is a color space indicated by each of plural preset items of color space candidate information, to thereby obtain plural conversion processing results corresponding to the respective items of color space candidate information; (2) presents the plural conversion processing results to a user; (3) receives a manipulation of the user of selecting one of the plural conversion processing results; and (4) employs, as an inference result of the color space of the image data, a color space indicated by color space candidate information that corresponds to the conversion processing result selected by the manipulation of the user.

17. The image processing apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the data generated on the basis of the image data is one of the image data and reduced data of the image data.

18. The image processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the color information that is set in advance includes at least one or more of: information indicating a saturation range, information indicating a hue range, and information indicating a target color.

19. An image processing apparatus comprising:
 means for judging whether information indicating a color space of image data, and which is appended to and input together with the image data, satisfies a prescribed condition; and
 means for performing a prescribed processing to the image data using the information indicating the color space if the judging means judges that the information indicating the color space satisfies the prescribed condition.

20. The image processing apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising means for inferring a color space of the image data when the judging means judges that the information indicating the color space does not satisfy the prescribed condition, and wherein the means for performing the prescribed processing uses the inferred color space when the judging means judges that the information indicating the color space does not satisfy the prescribed condition.

21. The image processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the means for inferring infers the color space of the image data by: (1) performing image recognition processing to the image data, the image recognition processing including recognizing a prescribed image portion of the image data as a predefined object; and (2) referring to color

information that is set in advance as information representing a color of the predefined object recognized by the image recognition processing.

22. The image processing apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the inferring means infers the color space of the image data by using appended data that is input together with the image data, the appended data including at least one of information indicating a format of the image data, information including at least one of a date and time of generation of the image data, a date and time of last updating of the image data, and information indicating an editing history of the image data.

23. An image processing apparatus comprising:

a controller that: (1) judges whether information indicating a color space of image data, and which is appended to and input together with the image data, satisfies a prescribed condition; and (2) performs a prescribed processing to the image data using the information indicating the color space if it is judged that the information indicating the color space satisfies the prescribed condition.

24. The image processing apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the controller also infers a color space of the image data when it is judged that the information indicating the color space does not satisfy the prescribed condition, and wherein the controller uses the inferred color space to perform the prescribed processing when it is judged that the information indicating the color space does not satisfy the prescribed condition.

25. The image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the controller infers the color space of the image data by: (1) performing image recognition processing to the image data, the image recognition processing including recognizing a prescribed image portion of the image data as a predefined object; and (2) referring to color information that is set in advance as information representing a color of the predefined object recognized by the image recognition processing.

26. The image processing apparatus according to claim 24, wherein the controller infers the color space of the image data by using appended data that is input together with the image data, the appended data including at least one of information indicating a format of the image data, information including at least one of a date and time of generation of the image data, a date and time of last updating of the image data, and information indicating an editing history of the image data.

27. An image processing method using a computer, comprising the steps of:
inferring a color space of image data that is to be processed; and

performing a prescribed processing to the image data on the basis of information indicating the inferred color space.

28. The image processing method according to claim 27, wherein the inferring step infers the color space of the image data by: (1) performing image recognition processing to the image data, the image recognition processing including recognizing a prescribed image portion of the image data as a predefined object; and (2) referring to color information that is set in advance as information representing a color of the predefined object recognized by the image recognition processing.

29. The image processing method according to claim 27, wherein the inferring step infers the color space of the image data by using appended data that is input together with the image data, the appended data including at least one of information indicating a format of the image data, information including at least one of a date and time of generation of the image data, a date and time of last updating of the image data, and information indicating an editing history of the image data.

30. The image processing method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of performing, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.

31. The image processing method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of performing, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.

32. The image processing method according to claim 29, further comprising the step of performing, on the image data, conversion processing from the inferred color space to another color space and for presenting a result of the conversion processing to a user.

33. The image processing method according to claim 27, wherein the inferring step: (1) performs conversion processing into another color space on data generated on the basis of the image data while assuming that the color space of the image data is a color space indicated by each of plural preset items of color space candidate information, to thereby obtain plural conversion processing results corresponding to the respective items of color space candidate information; (2) presents the plural conversion processing results to a user; (3) receives a manipulation of the user of selecting one of the plural conversion processing results; and (4) employs, as an inference result of the color space of the image data, a color space indicated by color space candidate information that corresponds to the conversion processing result selected by the manipulation of the user.

34. The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the data generated on the basis of the image data is one of the image data and reduced data of the image data.

35. The image processing method according to claim 28, wherein the color information that is set in advance includes at least one or more of: information indicating a saturation range, information indicating a hue range, and information indicating a target color.

36. An image processing program for causing a computer to execute the steps of:
inferring a color space of image data that is to be processed; and
performing a prescribed processing to the image data on the basis of
information indicating the inferred color space.

37. An image processing method using a computer, comprising the steps of:
judging whether information indicating a color space of image data, and which
is appended to and input together with the image data, satisfies a prescribed condition; and
performing a prescribed processing to the image data using the information
indicating the color space if it is judged that the information indicating the color space
satisfies the prescribed condition.

38. The image processing method according to claim 37, further comprising the
step of inferring a color space of the image data if it is judged that the information indicating
the color space does not satisfy the prescribed condition, and wherein the step of performing
the prescribed processing uses the inferred color space when it is judged that the information
indicating the color space does not satisfy the prescribed condition.

39. The image processing method according to claim 38, wherein the inferring
step infers the color space of the image data by: (1) performing image recognition processing
to the image data, the image recognition processing including recognizing a prescribed image
portion of the image data as a predefined object; and (2) referring to color information that is
set in advance as information representing a color of the predefined object recognized by the
image recognition processing.

40. The image processing method according to claim 38, wherein the inferring
step infers the color space of the image data by using appended data that is input together
with the image data, the appended data including at least one of information indicating a
format of the image data, information including at least one of a date and time of generation
of the image data, a date and time of last updating of the image data, and information
indicating an editing history of the image data.

41. An image processing program for causing a computer to execute the steps of:
judging whether information indicating a color space of image data, and which
is appended to and input together with the image data, satisfies a prescribed condition; and
performing a prescribed processing to the image data using the information
indicating the color space if it is judged that the information indicating the color space
satisfies the prescribed condition.